Sidelining Cancer Research

1386. SHRI RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the research on cancer has been sidelined after HIV-centric policy;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. P. THAKUR): (a) to (c) No, Sir. This Ministry is giving great emphasis in implementation of the National Cancer Control Programme of which research is an important part. Under the NCCP financial assistance is provided for spreading awareness, diagnosis, treatment, research *etc.* as per details given in the Statement (*see below*). In addition the Indian Council of Medical Research under this Ministry lays high priority on Research on Cancer and has got 92 extramural projects in the field of Oncology. The Institute of Cytology & Preventive Oncology of ICMR is dedicated to research in oncology and is conducting multi-disciplinary studies on cancers of uterine, cervix and breast. The Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute, which is a recongnised Regional Cancer Centre, is a collaborating of the World Health Organisation and has been doing a lot of work in Cancer Research.

Statement

NATIONAL CANCER CONTROL PROGRAMME

There are various schemes for which central assistance is provided to the State Governments/Institutions. The schemes are as under :

Development of Oncology Wing

This scheme is available only for Government Medical Colleges to fill up the geographical gaps in the detection and treatment of cancer in the country. Financial assistance up to Rs. 2.00 crores can be provided to an Institute under the scheme for purchase of listed equipments. This is a one-time grant.

Setting up of Cobalt Therapy Unit

Financial assistance up to Rs. 1.50 crore is provided to State Government for setting up of Cobalt Therapy Unit in Government institutions. This is a one-time grant.

An amount of Rs. 1.00 crore is also provided for Cobalt Therapy Unit to the Non- Governmental Organisations on the specific recommendations of the State Government. This is one-time grant.

Voluntary Organisation Scheme

In the scheme up to Rs. 5.00 lakhs is provided to the Voluntary Organisations for undertaking health education and early detection activities in cancer on the specific recommendations of the State Government.

District Cancer Control Programme

A scheme for district project (duration five years) for health education, detection and pain relief measures under National Cancer Control Programme was initiated during the year 1990-91. In this scheme, financial assistance of Rs. 15.00 lakhs is provided to the State Government/UT administration for each district selected under the scheme with a provision of Rs. 10.00 lakhs per annum for each district for the remaining four year of the project period. After five years, the project is to be taken over by the State Government.

Regional Cancer Centres

This Ministry has recognised 17 Regional Cancer Centres in different States and an amount of Rs. 75.00 lakhs annually is provided. These RCCs extend treatment facilities and conduct research in the field of cancer.

Health care services in the country

1387. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched various schemes and programmes to ensure that health care services reach every nook and corner of the country;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to provide the services in villages and small panchayats; and

(c) how do Government propose to stabilize the growth of population?